

Gold & Silver Coins

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GOLD AND SILVER COINS OF THE BAHMANI DYNASTY.¹

BY THE HON. JAMES GIBBS.

ONE of the results of the late famine in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country, in Western India, was to throw into the Bazaar the chance hoardings of many years. Having the aid of friends stationed in those parts, I had the opportunity of examining a great number of coins of various classes. In this paper I shall confine myself to noticing those of the Bahmani dynasty.

Of the rulers of this dynasty, the following is a complete list, which is taken from Mr. Thomas's "Pathán Kings of Delhi," pp. 340—346 :—

	A.H.	A.D.	
I.	748.	1347.	Hasan Gango.
II.	759.	1358.	Muhammad Sháh I. Gházi.
III.	776.	1375.	Mujáhid Sháh.
IV.	780.	1378.	Daúd Sháh.
V.	780.	1378.	Mahmúd Sháh I. (Muhammad on the coins).
VI.	799.	1397.	Ghiás-ud-dín.
VII.	799.	1397.	Shams-ud-dín.
VIII.	800.	1397.	Firoze Sháh (Roz Afzún).
IX.	825.	1422.	Ahmad Sháh I.
X.	838.	1435.	'Alá-ud-dín Shah (Ahmad) II.
XI.	862.	1457.	Humáyún Sháh (Zálim).
XII.	865.	1461.	Nizám Sháh.
XIII.	867.	1463.	Muhammad Sháh II.
XIV.	887.	1482.	Mahmúd Sháh II.

¹ Mr. Gibbs having been obliged to return to India, Mr. Grueber has consented to see this article through the press, and is therefore responsible for any errors.

	^{A.H.}	^{A.D.}	
XV.	924.	1518.	Ahmad Shah II.
XVI.	927.	1520.	'Ala-ud-din Shah III.
XVII.	929.	1522.	Wali-ullah Shah.
XVIII.	932.	1525.	Kalim-ullah Shah.

As I believe this is the first notice which has appeared in the "Numismatic Chronicle" of the coins of this remarkable dynasty, which ruled over the Deccan for the space of more than a century and a half, I may perhaps be pardoned, if I first give a slight historical sketch of it. This sketch is taken from Ferishta's "History of India," and also from the excellent history of India by Meadows Taylor.

At the period of the foundation of the Bahmani dynasty, the Deccan was subject to the Kings of Delhi, who were of the House of Gházi Beg Tughlak. It had been invaded during the rule of the Khilji dynasty, when Jelál-ud-din Khilji sat on the throne of Delhi, but it remained for Muhammad-ben-Tughlak, the son of Gházi Beg Tughlak, to bring it into complete subjection. This he accomplished about the year A.D. 1327, and so great was his partiality for this newly conquered district that he determined to transfer the seat of Government from Delhi to Dowlatabad, and actually did so, compelling the inhabitants themselves to abandon their native city and to proceed to the Deccan. Muhammad's residence in his new capital was, however, of short duration, and he again returned to Delhi, and permitted those of the inhabitants who desired to do so, to accompany him. The journey from Delhi to the Deccan and the return had, however, cost the lives of a majority of the population, who perished on the route either by famine or fever. These changes on the part of Muhammad resulted in a series of rebellions and insurrections in nearly all the provinces, in which

the Deccan joined, and set up a new king by the name of Ismail, who took the title of Násir-ud-dín. At the news of this rebellion, the King, who was engaged in an expedition in Guzerát, marched to the Deccan, and defeating the rebels, who were commanded by the Viceroy, Ameer Juddeda, besieged them in their chief city of Dowlatabád. From this siege the King was called away by a fresh outbreak in Guzerát, and the army was left under the command of Ismail-ul-Mulk, Viceroy of Berár, who was defeated by an officer named Zuffur Khan; and all the royal troops were expelled from the country.

The new King of the Deccan, Násir-ud-dín, now resigned, and Zuffur Khan became King, under the title of 'Alá-ud-dín Hasan Gango Bahmani, and was the founder of a noble and long-enduring dynasty. These events took place about A.D. 1347.

The history of Hasan Gango is one of the most remarkable in the annals of India. He was originally a menial servant in the employ of a Brahmin of Delhi named Gango. One day ploughing in a field of his master, he turned up a pot filled with coins, which he at once took to Gango. The Brahmin, appreciating his honesty, constructed his horoscope, and informed him that some day he would attain to royal honours. Shortly after this circumstance Hasan entered the service of the King of Delhi, and by his bravery and quickness soon rose to high military command in the Deccan, and received the title of Zuffur Khan. On the outbreak of the rebellion, he was placed at the head of the rebellious army, and, as we have seen above, defeated the royal troops near the town of Beeder.

No further attempts to quell the rebellion having been made by Muhammad, and Násir-ud-dín resigning his new

crown, Zuffur Khan was chosen King, and out of regard to his former master, whom he appointed his chief treasurer, assumed the title of 'Alá-ud-dín Hasan Gango Bahmani. The kingdom thus formed had Berár in the north, and the eastern frontier extended from Berár, Mahore, and Ramgeer to Indore and Kowlas; on the south the boundary was formed by the rivers Krishna and Tumboodra; and on the west was the sea, with the ports of Dabul and Choule. For its capital, Hasan Gango selected the city of Koolburga, on account of its central position—which city, Ferishta says, was now named Ahsanábád. Having thus attained to royal honours Gango at once applied himself to the organization of his dominions, and by the justice of his rule soon earned the affection of all his subjects.

For some years the Deccan enjoyed a period of peace, and it was not till an ancient prince of Guzerát invited Gango to occupy that province that the new State was involved in any war. The expedition failed, chiefly through the ill-health of the King, who soon returned to his capital, where he died on the 10th Feb., 1358, and was succeeded by his son, Muhammad Sháh I. Gházi. Scarcely had Muhammad mounted his throne than his kingdom was menaced by two formidable Hindoo powers, that of Wurungul on the east and south-east, and Beejanugger on the south and south-west, these states demanding the restoration of certain dominions which had been conquered by Gango. Muhammad first turned his attention to Wurungul, which he entered, and after a severe struggle compelled to submit to his terms. Having thus disposed of one enemy, he was not long in provoking a quarrel with the Hindoo King of Beejanugger. This contest he found more severe, and on more than one occasion he almost despaired

of success ; but being of a fierce and daring character he persevered, and eventually gained a great victory in which the Hindoo general was killed. Following up this success with the wholesale massacre of all the inhabitants in his march, men, women, and children, and finally with the siege of Beejanugger, he compelled the whole population to surrender, and he granted them honourable terms. It is said that in this war upwards of 500,000 Hindoos fell to the swords of the Mahommedans.

These are the only wars which occurred during the reign of Muhammad, who, like his father, availed himself of peaceful times to continue the work of providing for the security of his people. This he accomplished by yearly tours throughout his dominions ; so that at his death, March 21, 1375, he left a flourishing country, a rich treasury, and a well-disciplined army.

Muhammad Sháh was succeeded by his son, Mujáhid Sháh, who soon became involved in a war with Beejanugger, and marching into the country forced the reigning rajah to retire to the woods and forests south and west of his capital. This was followed by the siege of Beejanugger itself, during the course of which Mujáhid forced his way into the second line of works, where there was a celebrated and much-venerated image of the monkey-god, Hunoomán, which the Brahmins tried to save. In the conflict for the possession of this image, the King struck it and mutilated its features. For this act a wounded Brahmin cursed him, and prophesied that he would die ere he reached his kingdom—a prophecy which was soon fulfilled, for after making peace with his enemies, he was preparing to return to his capital, when he was murdered by his uncle, Daúd Sháh, who immediately afterwards caused himself to be proclaimed King, the murdered

man leaving no children. The death of Mujáhid Sháh occurred 14th April, 1378, and Daúd Sháh was himself murdered after a short reign of a month and five days, whilst praying in a mosque at Koolburga, by one of his nephew's attached attendants. Daúd Sháh was succeeded by Mahmúd Sháh I., who was the youngest son of the first King, Hasan Gango. The reign of this prince was a peaceful one, and was not disturbed by either foreign wars or domestic insurrections. Having for his minister Scif-ud-dín Ghoory, the faithful counsellor of his father, Mahmúd applied himself to the improvement of the state of his subjects. Being a man of great literary tastes, he founded schools throughout his dominions, which he also richly endowed; other charities at the same time receiving a due share of his sympathy. Mahmúd Sháh died of fever 20th April, 1397, and was succeeded by his son, Ghíás-ud-dín, whose reign only lasted six weeks, having been seized at a banquet by his minister, Lallcheen, whom he had on several occasions insulted, and who caused him to be blinded and imprisoned. Lallcheen now placed Shams-ud-dín, brother of Ghíás-ud-dín, upon the throne, and appointed himself Prime Minister. This act was, however, not allowed to go long unpunished, for Firoze Khán, a son of Daúd Sháh, who had been protected and kindly treated by Mahmúd Sháh I., raised a rebellion against the new King, and caused both him and Lallcheen to be confined in prison. Ghíás-ud-dín, the blinded and imprisoned King, was released, and with his own hand cut off the head of Lallcheen, and thus having obtained revenge for the cruelties he had received, appointed Firoze King and retired to Mecca, where he died at a very advanced age.

Firoze ascended the throne under the title of Firoze

Sháh (Roz Afzún) Gango Bahmani, on 15th November, 1397. During the greater part of his reign, which extended over twenty-five years, Firoze was engaged in a long contest with the old enemy of the Bahmani dynasty, the Rajah of Beejanugger, who made frequent inroads into the dominions of the Deccan. Déo Rái, the Rajah, was, however, finally defeated, and as the means of obtaining more favourable terms, gave his daughter in marriage to Firoze; but even this act was not sufficient to prevent a fresh outbreak between the two kings, and a war was again declared in 1417, which proved for a long time disastrous to the forces of Firoze, whose fortunes were redeemed by his brother Khán Khanan.

The health of Firoze having given way, he resigned the throne and set up his brother Khán Khanan, who assumed the title of Ahmad Sháh. Firoze's resignation took place 15th September, 1422, and he died ten days afterwards. Of Firoze it is said that, though devoted to pleasure, he was one of the most enlightened kings of his age. He delighted in music and reading, and amongst all his books there were none which pleased him more than the Old and New Testaments, being thoroughly tolerant in all matters of religion. He also entirely rebuilt his capital, Koolburga, adorning it with the most splendid palaces, the ruins of which exist at the present day. The first act of Ahmad Sháh, who had added to his name that of Wully, or Saint, was to declare war against Beejanugger, in order to avenge the invasions of Déo Rái, and in spite of an agreement made by Muhammad Sháh I., and since strictly observed, he put to the sword upwards of 20,000 of the inoffensive Hindoos, destroying at the same time their temples and colleges, and desecrating their holy places. The sequel of these acts was the surrender of the Rajah,

who agreed to pay a heavy tribute in order to free his dominions of so dangerous a foe. The other events of this reign were a war with Wurungul in 1421, and another with the Sultán of Malwáh in 1426. On his return from Malwáh, Ahmad founded the city Beeder, which in a short time was to become the seat of the Government. This was the last important act of Ahmad, who died 12th February, 1432, the crown passing to his son, 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II.

The reign of 'Alá-ud-dín was marked by a serious rebellion, at the head of which was the King's brother, Muhomed Khán. The rebellion failed, and the King treated his brother with much more leniency than he could have expected, not only pardoning him, but conferring upon him the estate of Raichore and its dependencies. This event was followed by the invasion and reduction of Konkan, and the defeat of the Kings of Khandésh and Guzerát, both of whom had sought to overthrow the power of the Bahmani dynasty. Beeder now became the capital of the kingdom; it was a city well suited for such a purpose, being situated in the healthiest and most beautiful part of the Deccan, and being furnished with splendid fortifications, which exist at the present time. It was further protected by a fort which rose at a little distance far above the level of the city, and contained the royal palaces and gardens. In 1443 Déo Rái, Rajah of Beejanugger, wearied of having to pay a large tribute, again invaded the Deccan, but only again to be defeated and to pay an increased amount.

Peace now reigned throughout the Deccan, and the King, following the example of his predecessors, turned his attention to the internal improvement of his empire. He cleared it of idle vagabonds and robbers, who swarmed

the country, and erected and endowed hospitals throughout the land. In spite of these good qualities, 'Alá-ud-dín had one great fault, which was a too great partiality for fermented liquors. He issued edicts prohibiting their use amongst his subjects; but he does not appear to have applied their force to his own case. This intemperate habit brought on a disorder, of which he died in the year 1457. Before his death he appointed his son, Humáyún Sháh, his successor. This prince named as his minister Khwajah Mahmúd Gawán, a man much respected for his strict honour, integrity, and justice.

The reign of Humáyún Sháh was a short one, but it was marked by acts of great cruelty. An attempt having been made to place the King's brother Hasan on the throne, the latter was seized by Humáyún and murdered, with a large portion of the city guard, who were either staked, or boiled in oil, or thrown to wild beasts, the King himself superintending the execution of his own orders. For these acts he was hated by his people, who hailed his death in 1461 with delight. Before his death the King appointed his son, Nizám Sháh, then only eight years old, his successor, at the same time nominating a council of Regency, consisting of the Queen-mother, of Khwajah Mahmúd Gawán, and of Khwajah Jehan Turk.

The attention of the Regency was first occupied by a serious invasion of the Hindoos of Wurungul, who advanced within a few miles of Beeder; but who for some unknown reason took flight and returned to their country. This invasion was followed by a more serious one under the Sultán of Malwáh, who compelled the King to evacuate his capital and to fly to Firozábád, and it was only repulsed by the aid of the King of Guzerát, who was

unwilling to see the balance of power destroyed. These campaigns ended, the King returned to his capital, and being seized with an attack of fever, died 29th July, 1463. He was succeeded by his brother, Muhammad Sháh II., and the Regency which had been appointed by his father continued as before. For a short time the Regency succeeded; but soon one of the trio, Jehan Turk, began to usurp all authority, which the Queen-mother resented, and having found that he had been guilty of corrupt practices, she complained to the King, who caused Jehan Turk to be put to death.

Mahmúd Gáwan, who had been sent to a distance from the capital, now returned to Beeder, and was placed near the King's person, the supreme power, which he never abused, being committed to his hands, and under his guidance the Bahmani dynasty rose to its highest pitch. The first undertaking of the King was the acquisition of Kéhrla from the dominions of the King of Malwáh, and the annexation of Konkan from the dependencies of the Rajah of Beejanugger. In 1471 he undertook a campaign in Telingána at the instance of Ambur Rái, who promised to become his tributary if restored to his rights. The campaign came to a successful conclusion. In the following year he entered upon a campaign against the Rajah of Belgaum, and this was followed by a second expedition to Orissa and the capture of Conjeveram. By these conquests the Bahmani territory extended from sea to sea and attained its greatest limits. In consequence of these large acquisitions, a new division of the empire took place. In the midst of the success a rash act of the King was destined to destroy all his future happiness. Mahmúd Gáwan, under whose advice all the late reforms had been carried out, and to whose good counsel the suc-

cesses of the King were due, had at the court many enemies, who began to set the heart of the King against him. By the means of forged letters they persuaded the King that Mahmúd Gáwan was aiming at the crown. The King believing his minister to be guilty, caused him to be put to death without hearing a defence, and in spite of Mahmúd Gáwan's warning that his own death would be fatal to the welfare of the State. The King was not long in discovering the great error he had made, for on requiring a statement to be prepared of the estate of the murdered minister he found him to be possessed of only such a sum as sufficed to furnish him with the most humble necessities. Mahmúd Gáwan had spent all he possessed in charity and in founding a college at Beeder, in which he had placed a valuable library. Remorse for this act drove the King to habits of intemperance, and being attacked by fever, he died 24th March, 1482. He was succeeded by his son, Mahmúd Sháh II., a boy of twelve years of age. Nizám-ul-Mulk, the author of the plot against Mahmúd Gáwan, was appointed Prime Minister, and under his treacherous rule the prophecy of the late minister was being fulfilled.

Yoosuf-Adil-Khan, who had commanded with great success for Muhammad Sháh II., declared the independence of Beejapoor, and Nizám-ul-Mulk plotted with his son Mulluk Ahmad a rebellion in Joonair. The death, by the hand of an assassin, of Nizám-ul-Mulk frustrated his designs; but his son shortly afterwards carried out his designs, and Joonair threw off the yoke of the Bahmani House. In Berár also Imád-ul-Mulk was proclaimed King. Thus were lost to the successors of Hasan Gango their finest provinces in the north, west, and south-west, and only the districts around the capital, with Telingána,

remained; but Telingána soon followed the example of the other dependencies, and declared itself free in 1512. In vain did the King, acting under the advice of his minister, Ameer Bereed, endeavour to win back his old dominions by invading Beejapoor; the expedition failed, and the King was taken prisoner by the enemy, who treated him with more kindness than he could have expected, escorting him back to his capital and for a while supporting him on his throne. When the Beejapoor troops withdrew, Mahmúd, weary of submitting to the rule of his minister Bereed, fled to the King of Berar, but finally returned to Beeder, where he died 21st October, 1518, and with his death the dynasty of the Bahmani kings virtually closed.

Mahmúd Sháh II. was succeeded by his son, Ahmad Sháh II., who reigned two years, and dying in 1520, was himself succeeded by his brother, 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh III., who, attempting to rid himself of his minister Bereed, was discovered in his plot and put to death in 1522. He was succeeded by Wali-ullah Sháh, the third son of Mahmúd Sháh II., but he was poisoned by Bereed in 1525, the minister conceiving a passion for the king's wife.

The last king of the Bahmani line now mounted the throne in the person of Kalim-ullah Sháh, the son of Ahmad Sháh II., but he was denied any liberty by Bereed, who placed him in close confinement. From his prison he escaped to Beejapoor, where he entrusted himself to the protection of his uncle, Ismail-Adil-Sháh. From Beejapoor he returned to Ahmudnugger, where he died, and with him ended the Bahmani dynasty. The Deccan country was now divided into five separate and independent kingdoms.

Although the Bahmani dynasty was one of great power

and wealth, but very few specimens of its coinage are known to exist, and it is only of recent date that we have any notice of them. Mr. Thomas, in his work on the Pathán Kings of Delhi, gives woodcuts of two coins, viz., of Mahmúd Sháh I. and 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II., and a list which includes, besides these coins, silver of Firoze Sháh, Humáyún Sháh, and Muhammad Sháh II., and also copper of Firoze Sháh, 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II., and Mahmúd Sháh II. (?) On examining the British Museum collection I find there are specimens in silver of—

VIII. Firoze Sháh, A.H. 801, 802, 807, 822, 8 × × ?

X. 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh, no date legible.

XI. Humáyún Sháh, A.H. 863.

and copper of—

X. 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh, 14 specimens.

XI. Humáyún Sháh, 3 specimens.

XIII. Muhammad Sháh II., 4 specimens.

XIV. Mahmúd Sháh II., 3 specimens.

During my residence in India and since my return last year, I have had the good fortune to procure three gold coins and more than a dozen silver which give specimens of the following kings:—

GOLD.

II. Muhammad Sháh I.	A.H. 775.
VIII. Firoze Sháh	800.
X. 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II.	860.

SILVER.

I. Hasan Gango	758.
II. Muhammad Sháh I.	760, 772.
III. Mujahid Sháh	779.
V. Mahmúd Sháh I.	797.
VII. Shams-ud-dín Sháh	799.

VIII. Firoze Sháh	803, 804, 824, 825.
IX. Ahmad Sháh I.	826.
X. 'Alā-ud-dīn Sháh II.	847, 857.
XIII. Muhammad Sháh II.	879.

We have no records of the Bahmani coinage, as to its type or denominations, beyond what Ferishta tells us in one solitary passage in his history of the dynasty. He says, in narrating the history of Muhammad Sháh I., that the coins of that king are of four denominations of gold and silver, ranging from two tolahs to a quarter of a tolah in weight, having on one side the creed of the faithful (the Kulmah) and the names of the ashab (the first four caliphs), while on the other side was the king's title and the year of his reign in which the coin was struck. The Hindoo bankers, at the instance of the Rajahs of Beejanugger and Telingána, melted all the coins which fell into their hands in order that those of the infidels might alone be current in the Deccan. Incensed at this, Muhammad Sháh put many persons to death and limited the business of the mint and of the bank to a few *Khatris*, the descendants of the inhabitants of Delhi, who had formerly emigrated to the Deccan. After this the Bahmani coins alone were used in the Mahommedan dominions.

This description of the coins of Muhammad Sháh I. corresponds very closely with the specimens which I have in my collection (Nos. 2—4). Ferishta appears to have been wrong about the names of the four caliphs being on the obverse, as in no instance of this coinage do they occur. He also omits to state that besides the date of the issue of the coin, its place of mintage also was stamped upon it—the place of mintage, as we know from the coins, was Ahsanábád, which was the name given by Hasan Gango to

Koolburga upon his accession to the throne. And when the capital was transferred to Beeder the mint appears to have still existed at Ahsanábád, as the coins of 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II., Humáyún Sháh, and Muhammad Sháh II. (Nos. 14—18) testify. Also as to the denominations of which Ferishta says there were four, we have hitherto but two, viz., one of gold and another of silver, unless we include also the copper coin, of which Ferishta does not make any mention. The gold coins, Ferishta tells us later on in his work, were called astruffies; these may have been equal in value to twenty of the silver ones. The names of the silver coins at present are unknown to us. I shall hope, however, before I leave India, by further acquisitions, to be able to throw more light upon this as well as other points connected with this coinage.

Of the gold coins in my collection the first is that of Muhammad Sháh I. (No. 2): this coin I have only quite recently acquired, since my return to India last summer. It bears, so far as I can see, no place of mintage; but this may have been on the coin, as although in good preservation its edge seems to have been clipped. I have, however, no doubt but that, like the silver coins of Muhammad, it was issued at Ahsanábád.

The second gold coin is of Firoze Sháh (No. 8). It was sold to me by one of my Marwani agents for a coin of Muhammad-ben-Tughlak, which it greatly resembles both in fabric and type. It was brought to me only a few days before I left Bombay, when I was very busy, and I took it without giving it more than a casual glance. I did not attempt to read it until some time ago, when I was showing the coins to Mr. R. Stuart Poole of the British Museum, who readily found it to be a coin of Firoze Sháh (Roz-Afzún) dated A.H. 800, and struck at

Ahsanábád, the capital which afterwards gave a name to one of the districts into which the single Mahomedan kingdom in the Deccan was divided by Muhammad Sháh II. As Firoze Sháh came to the throne in the year in which this coin was struck, it was most likely one of those prepared for his coronation, as we know that it was the custom of all the Bahmani kings to distribute large sums on this event among the people. This was probably done by Firoze Sháh with a liberal hand, as he had no direct claim to the crown, and, besides that, he was the son of Daúd Sháh, for whom the people of the Deccan entertained no kindly feeling. The coin in my collection appears never to have been in circulation, being as fine as when it came from the mint.

As regards the gold coin of 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II. (No. 14), it is one of three pieces which were received from a Marwani who was on business in Sholapore to whom they had been tendered for sale. One of my Bombay Marwani agents procured them, selling one to Dr. De Canha, and bringing me a second. What became of the third I do not know; I believe it was sold to a native, as the agent brought it to show me one day. Dr. De Canha also kindly allowed me to see his, and I found that all three coins apparently came from the same die, but on none of these coins was the legend perfect. Dr. De Canha's has the upper line on the reverse, which is incomplete on mine, whilst mine has the date more perfect than his; the third was not so well preserved as either of the others. I have had the gold tested and weighed, and both corresponded with what genuine coins of this description should show; but at that time, never having heard of any specimens of the gold coinage of this dynasty, and looking at the type of the inscription, I felt uncertain

as to the coins being genuine; but competent judges who have seen my specimen have little doubt of its being a real coin. It will be seen from the descriptions (Nos. 14—16) that the types of the gold and silver coins of 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II. were similar; but in my gold coin, as I have remarked, the inscription is incomplete, that is, the first line on the reverse is omitted. This similarity of type is very unusual, and as the coin is certainly inferior in style to the other two gold ones in my collection, and the date is somewhat blundered, it is not surprising that at first sight it created some doubt. In spite of these drawbacks I am, however, not inclined to change my mind in the determination at which I have arrived.

The only other gold coin, so far as I am aware, existing of the Bahmani series is one of Mahmúd Sháh II. dated A.H. 914, which is in the collection of General Cunningham.

Of the silver coins, that of Hasan Gango (No. 1), the first king, I also acquired upon my return to India last summer. It is a very remarkable coin, as it shows that Hasan Gango took for the type of his coinage that of 'Alá-ud-dín Muhammad Sháh, the fourteenth Pathán King of Delhi A.H. 695—715, and like him assumes the title of Second Alexander, *سكندر الثاني*. It is very probable that at the time of the accession of Hasan Gango, the coins of Delhi were current throughout the Deccan. The inscription of 'Alá-ud-dín would serve for either monarch, and the only alteration necessary to make the coin a record of the newly founded dynasty was to insert in the third line of the obverse inscription the title *بهمني* for that of *محمد*, and the addition of the date. As the coin in my collection was issued in the last year of the reign of Hasan Gango, we may conclude that he adopted this type for his coinage at the commencement of

his réign, and that it remained unaltered to the end. This silver coin, I believe, is unique, and I have met with only one other coin of Hasan Gango, which is of copper and is in the collection of General Cunningham, and is inscribed very distinctly احسن, being spelt in the same manner as "Ahsanábád" on the gold coin of Firoze Sháh. The coin of General Cunningham bears no date. The silver coins of Muhammad Sháh I. Gházi offer no ground for remark, excepting that they are the first which bear the name of the place of mintage.

For the coin of Mujáhid Sháh (No. 5) I am indebted to Dr. De Canha, who procured it from a Marwani in Bombay. As from the history of Ferishta we find that Daúd Sháh only reigned a month and four days, it is not surprising that no coins of this king have been found, and the probability is that none were struck by him; but the short réign of Ghíás-ud-dín, which extended over only six weeks, did produce a coinage, since General Cunningham has in his collection a copper coin of that prince, which reads *Ghíás-ed-dunya-wa-ud-dín*; but it is not dated. The silver coin of Shams-ud-dín (No. 7) is an important one, as in my opinion it helps to clear up what hitherto has been a doubtful point, viz., the descent of that king.

Meadows Taylor, in his History, says that after the blinding and imprisonment of Ghíás-ud-dín, Lallcheen raised to the throne Shams-ud-dín, brother of Mahmúd Sháh; but this statement is against the evidence of Ferishta, who calls Shams-ud-dín the younger brother of Ghíás-ud-dín, and the heading of his chapter concerning him is Sultan Shams-ud-dín Bahmani ben Sultán Mahmúd Sháh; in other words, that he was grandson to Hasan Gango by his youngest son, Mahmúd Sháh. Also Professor Dowson has favoured me with the following remark: "A history, of which I have not discovered the

real name, but which is labelled 'Tarikh-i Bahmani,' has the following: 'Reign of Sultán Shams-ud-dín Daúd Sháh ben Sultán Muhammad Sháh ben Mahmúd Sháh ben Sultán 'Alá-ud-dín Hasan Sháh,' but of which the text says, '*Biradar i kuchak i orá (i.e. Ghíás-ud-dín) ké Sultán Shams-ud-dín nám dásht ba Sultánet bar-dásht,*' i.e. 'He raised to the throne his (Ghíás-ud-dín's) younger brother, who was named Shams-ud-dín.' " This author also says Shams-ud-dín had not yet passed the seventh age of his life; he could therefore not have been, as Meadows Taylor says, a son of Hasan Gango. This last writer is distinctly in favour of the reading of my coin, which I take to be "Shams-ud-dunya-wa-ud-dín Daúd Sháh Sultán ben Sultán." It is also probable that Shams-ud-dín was named after his uncle, Daúd Sháh.

The silver coins of Firoze Sháh (Nos. 9—12) are the same as those described by Marsden in his "Numismata Orientalia," p. 575, and figured in Pl. XXXVIII, DCCLXXVIII, and attributed by him to Firoze Sháh Habshi, thirty-third Pathán King of Bengal. This wrong attribution by Marsden is chiefly due to his having mistaken the date on his coin, which he took for ٨٩٧, A.H. 897, instead of ٨٠٧, A. H. 807, which it really is; besides, he seems to have had some difficulty in reading the inscription, for he says, "the reverse has some honorary epithets, the text of which, although not wanting in distinctness of the strokes, is rendered unintelligible by the formation of the characters. It appears to end with the word احمد." Marsden must have had some doubt in his mind concerning his attribution of his coin as he could not explain the title of تاج الدنيا or, as he reads it, تاج الدين, which he says is not mentioned by historians as having been assumed by Firoze Sháh Habshi. The name of the mint and also the dates on my coins

place my attribution of these coins beyond question. The type of the early coinage of Firoze Sháh extended throughout his entire reign, as my coins range from A.H. 804—825.

The coin of Ahmad Sháh I. (No. 13) is different in type and legend to the other coins of his dynasty, the place of mintage and date being placed above and below the inscription on the area. Although Ahmad Sháh I., on his accession to the throne took the title of Wully الولي, he did not place it on his coins, but his son and grandson, 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II. and Humáyún Sháh, added the title to his name.

The silver coins of 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh II. (Nos. 15—16) have been published by Thomas in his work on the Pathán Kings of Delhi, p. 343.

The coin of Humáyún Sháh (No. 17) is from a specimen in the British Museum.

By my recent acquisitions, as well as those of General Cunningham, the list of the kings of the Bahmani dynasty who are unrepresented by coins is very much reduced, and there remain only: iv. Daúd Sháh; xii. Nizám Sháh; xv. Ahmad Sháh II.; xvi. 'Alá-ud-dín Sháh III.; xvii. Wali-ullah Sháh, and xviii. Kalám-ullah Sháh. The last three reigns were so short and so troubled that it is not unlikely that very few if any coins were issued during that period.

I now append a description of the coins the greater portion of which are illustrated on Pl. V.

On the obverse there is no marginal inscription; but with the exception of Nos. 8 and 13 the reverse area inscription is within a square, and the mintage and date are placed in the segments between the square and the outer circle, the date being always in the lowest angle. On No. 8 the reverse area inscription is within a circle

and that of the margin outside the circle. No. 13 has the area inscription within an oval, the mint and date being placed above and below.

I.—HASAN GANGO.

1. Silver. A.H. 758.

Obv. Area.	Rev. Area.
السلطان الاعظم	سكندر الثاني
علا الدنيا والد[ين]	يمين الخلافة ناصر
ابو المظفر شاه بهمني	امير المومنين
السلطان	٧٥٨

R. 1·05, wt. 160·4. Pl. v.

II.—MUHAMMAD SHÁH I. GHÁZI.

2. Gold. A.H. 775.

Obv. Area.	Rev. Area.
سلطان	محمد شاه
العهد و الزمان	السلطان ابن
ابو المظفر	السلطان
	٧٧٥

R. ·85, wt. 167·5. Pl. v.

3. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 760.

Obv. Area.	Rev. Area.
سلطان	ابو المظفر
العهد و الزمان	محمد شاه بن
الحامي ملته رسول	بهمن شاه السلطان
الرحمن	

Margin on reverse. ضرب | بحضرة | احساناباد | ٧٦٠

R. 1·05, wt. 166·7.

4. Another ; same mint, but year $\nu\nu r =$ A.H. 772.

R. 1·1, wt. 166. *Pl.* v.

III.—MUJÁHID SHÁH.

5. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 779.

Obv. Area.

السلطان الاعظم
علا الدنيا والدين
ابو المغازى مجاهد
شاه السلطان

Rev. Area.

المويد بنصر الله
يمين الخليفة ناصر
امير المومنين

Margin on reverse. $\nu\nu r$ | بحضرة | احسانباد |

R. 1·05, wt. 166·5. *Pl.* v.

V.—MAHMUD SHÁH.

6. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 797.

Obv. Area.

الناصر لدين
الدتان الحامي
لاهل الايمان

Rev. Area.

الوائق بتائيد
الرحمن ابو المظفر
محمد شاه السلطان

Margin on reverse. $\nu\nu r$ | بحضرة | احسانباد |

R. 1·05, wt. 164·7.

VII.—SHAMS-UD-DÍN.

7. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 799.

Obv. Area.

المستوثق لله
الحنان ابو المظفر
شمس الدنيا والدين

Rev. Area.

داود شاه
السلطانين
السلطان

Margin on reverse. ضرب | | احساناد | ٧٩٩

AR. 1·05, wt. 168. Pl. v.

VIII.—FIROZE SHÁH.

8. Gold. Ahsanábád, A.H. 800.

Obv. Area.

أشهد أن لا
إله إلا الله وحده
لا شريك له و أشهد
أن محمد عبده
ورسوله

Rev. Area.

الواثق بتائيد
الرحمن ابو
المظفر فيروز
شاه السلطان

Margin on outer circle on reverse.

ضرب هذا الدينار بخضرة دار الملك احساناد سنه ثمانماية

AR. 1, wt. 195. Pl. v.

9. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 803.

Obv. Area.

سلطان
العهد والزمان
الواثق بتائيد الرحمن
ابو المظفر

Rev. Area.

تاج الدنيا
والدين فيروز
شاه السلطان

Margin on reverse. | احساناد | ٨٠٣

AR. 1, wt. 155·3.

10. Another; same mint, but year ٨٠٤ = A.H. 804.

AR. 1, wt. 166·4.

11. Another; same mint, but year ٨٢٤ = A.H. 824.

R. 1·15, wt. 169·4.

12. Another; same mint, ornament on obverse and year ٨٢٥ = A.H. 825.

R. 1·05, wt. 169·4.

IX.—AHMAD SHĀH I.

13. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 826.

Obv. Area.

السلطان
العادل البادل الناصر
لدين الدتان ابو المغازی

Rev. Area.

ضرب | بحضر[ة]
شهاب الدنيا والدين
احمد شاه السلطان
[١] حسناباد ٨٢٦

R. 1·15, wt. 169. Pl. v.

X.—'ALĀ-UD-DIN SHĀH (AHMAD) II.

14. Gold. No mint. A.H. 860?

Obv. Area.

السلطان
الحليم الكريم
الروف على عباد الله
الغني المهيمني

Rev. Area.

[ابو المظفر علا]
الدنيا والدين احمد
شاه بن احمد شاه
الولي البهمني

Below in margin, ٨٦ = A.H. 860?

{A. 8, wt. 171. Pl. v.

15. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 847.

Same as preceding, but whole of inscription on reverse complete, and in margin on reverse :

ضرب | بحضرة | احساناباد | ٨٤٧

AR. 1, wt. 161.

16. Another; same mint, but year ٨٥٧ = A.H. 857.

AR. 1, wt. 169.7. Pl. v.

XI.—HUMÁYÚN SHÁH.

17. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 863.

Obv. Area.

المتوكل
علي الله القوي
الغني ابو المغازي

Rev. Area.

علا الدنيا والدين
همايون شاه بن احمد
شاه بن احمد شاه
الولي البهمني

Margin on reverse, ٨١٣ | احساناباد | |

AR. 1, wt. 171.2. Pl. v.

XIII.—*MUHAMMAD SHÁH II.

18. Silver. Ahsanábád, A.H. 879.

Obv. Area.

بالله
المعتصم
وابو المظفر شمس
الدنيا والدين

Rev. Area.

محمد شاه بن
همايون شاه
السلطان خلد ملكه

Margin on reverse, ٨٧٩ | احساناباد | [ا] | | ضرب

AR. .95, wt. 168.7. Pl. v.



R



1



R



2



R



4



R



5



R



7



R



8



R



13



R



14



R



16



R



17



R



18

